Claims

I claim:

1.   A method for facilitating the translation of files comprising:

creating an interface file including definitions ;

reading data from a first source;

reading the definitions contained in the interface file; and

translating said data from said first source according to the definitions contained in the interface file.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein said creating step comprises:

entering information regarding the type of interface file to be created;

entering data regarding the desired file format; and

entering formatting data regarding the format of the data being translated.

3.   The method of claim 2 wherein said entering formatting data step comprises:

entering formatting data regarding each field of data being translated.

4.   The method of claim 3 wherein said formatting data comprises:

a field name;

a description;

a length of the field;

an indicator of fixed-width/variable width status;

a mask to force data into a particular style;

justification information; position information; and

element information.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein said element information comprises:

information regarding the type of data in the field, wherein said information is selected from the following: a calculated expression; a static table entry; alphanumeric information; and a query.

6.   The method of claim 2 further comprising:

optionally selecting a template file as a starting point for creating the interface file;

optionally entering data regarding a sorting preference;

optionally entering data regarding a filtering preference;